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# Brandywine hosts annual Veterans Day breakfast

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — A local school district hosted a meal Monday to show its gratitude to local veterans and recognize the sacrifices they have made.

Brandywine Community Schools hosted its second annual Veterans Day breakfast Monday at the Brandywine Athletic Community Center, 1700 Bell Rd.

"It's always great to be able to offer something to people that have sacrificed so much and for all our freedoms and for everything they've done," said Brandywine Middle/High School Principal Evan Winkler. "I can't even fathom doing what they did going away from family. It's hard enough for me to move an hour away from my family. Imagine going overseas or going across the state and moving every couple years and what they've seen and what they've had to deal with is just an amazing sacrifice. This is the least we can do. I wish we could even do more but it's just nice that we can do this and honor them."

Students from Brandywine Elementary welcomed veterans into the building with patriotic welcome signs and Merritt Elementary students led the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition to breakfast served by the district's Food Services department, members of the Brandywine High School Band played the Armed Forces Medley and district staff were on hand to speak with and welcome Veterans.

# US-12 and M-51 rebuilding in Niles draws to a close

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

COLOMA — A year of detours and lane closures, and several years of planning culminated in the new intersection of US-12 and M-51 in Niles. On Wednesday, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will return traffic to its original lanes, essentially completing the rebuilding of the new intersection, as well as rebuilding one mile of US-12 and 2.7 miles of M-51.

The project replaced the freeway interchange with an at-grade intersection of US-12 and M-51 featuring Michigan Lefts, and updating the road designs and infrastructure to improve mobility and safety.

Crews will be completing traffic signal upgrades in the coming weeks, as well as restoration work and tree planting in the spring, but the remaining work is expected to have minimal impacts on traffic.

Based on economic modeling, this investment was expected to directly and indirectly support 383 jobs.

DEBRA HAIGHT | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
**City Clerk Kalla Langston swears in Commissioners Larry Money and Patrick Swem who won re-election last week.**

# Buchanan City Commissioners elect mayor, award bid for McCoy Creek culvert work

**By DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — Last week's election for two Buchanan City Commission seats didn't change the commission's composition any as incumbents Larry Money and Patrick Swem won re-election to new four-year terms.

Tuesday's City Commission meeting featured City Clerk Kalla Langston swearing in both to their new terms as well as the election of the mayor and mayor pro-tem by the five commissioners. Money and Swem won a six-way race for the two commission seats, garnering more votes than Lorilie Holmes, Tony Houser, Scott King and Angela Lowery.

Mark Weedon had been serving as interim mayor since Sean Denison's resignation in August and was elected

**See CITY,** Page A8

# FROZEN FUN ON THE WAY

## Niles approves annual Hunter Ice Festival

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — One of the Niles community's most popular events is set to take shape in a few months.

The 21st annual Hunter Ice Festival will take place from Friday, Jan. 17 to Sunday, Jan. 19 in Niles' downtown area. The Niles City Council voted 7-1 to approve the annual event, with fourth ward councilmember Michael Thompson voting against it.

The annual event is free and open to the public. Six expertly carved ice sculptures from prominent artists will be placed around the downtown for people to view. The Festival is sponsored by the Niles Downtown Development Authority Main Street, directed by the organization's promotion committee and underwritten by the Hunter Foundation. The goals of the festival are to encourage commercial activity in the downtown area and tell the history of the Hunter Family and their ice carvings and ice cream. Activities will include ice carving competition, chili crawl, ice games and sledding. The 15th annual Frigid 5K Run will take place the morning of Saturday, Jan. 18.

Ice Sculptures and competitions will be taking place from the NW corner of 5th and Main to Riverfront Park including the Amphitheater and between Cedar and Sycamore Streets. They requested that all fees be waived.

Thompson cast the lone dissenting vote because he does not believe the city should contribute funds toward events.

"Not only do I applaud the efforts of the Hunter Rice Festival, my family and I almost always go out of our way to support it via purchases at and around the festival, especially the exotic cupcake sales of LifePlan," he said. "Having said that, I cannot support the theft of one group of citizens to support a party for others even if I am one of those attending that party. This legal 'coffering' has been going on for far too long and should be ended. Just because the recipients of that theft may be to our liking, it does not make coffering moral. We should be looking more towards a society working together via voluntary association rather than forced in coercion."

In other business, the council voted 7-1 to accept the bid of Kirk M. Proshwitz of Buchanan, Michigan in the amount of $16,500 for the fireworks display for the annual Fourth of July celebration to be held July 4, 2024 with a rain date of July 5.

Thompson cast the dissenting vote.

"I find it the height of irony that the government of Niles takes resources from its citizens to celebrate our stopping another government from taking resources from its citizens," he said. "For those of you who think that the War of Independence was sought over taxation without representation, I would direct them to reading Ben Franklin and Murray Rothbard, among others, whose writings on the American Revolutionary War are based on the contemporary views of that day."

**In further business, council:**

• Approved payment to Berrien County in the amount of $8,277.73 associated with the Aug. 6 early voting costs and

**See FUN,** Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS CONTRIBUTOR
**Niles' Danny Bloss has participated in the Hunter Ice Festival since its inception 20 years ago.**

## OBITUARIES

Harold Finley
George A. Bergman
Betty Ackerman
Marjorie Aldrich
Amanda Slusher
Jean McHenry
Donald McAbee
Richard Worley Sr.
Linda Lou Criffield
Nancy McKay

A6

## FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Big Win for Niles Football Nation!"

A2

Harper Creek rally ends Niles' volleyball season

B1

# FRANKLY

## TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

**"What happened to Thanksgiving? Why are stores decorating their windows for Christmas when we are weeks away from Thanksgiving Day?"**

**"If you can't hold your liquor, you shouldn't be consuming it. Too many fights."**

**"Go Lions!"**

**"Big Win for Niles Football Nation!"**

**"Celebrate the holidays in Dowagiac November 14-16."**

**"It's hard to get into the holiday spirit when deportation seems to be the hot topic. Many of these people have been in the US for years and came as infants. Now, we are just going to drop them off on a corner in Mexico?"**

**"I see hiring signs all over the place for jobs Americans don't want."**

**"America is already Great! Sometimes it just needs a good cleaning."**

**"I am praying for a white Christmas regardless of what my family and friends say. But, come January 2, I am so done with snow."**

**"Who sells the best Christmas trees in the area? Looking for a fun family place to cut and drink hot chocolate."**

**"Christmas Vacation never gets old. I'm up to 5 times already this week."**

**"Please watch the wind before you burn leaves. Smoke on the highway isn't exactly the safest thing for drivers."**

## WEATHER

| SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 53° 44° | 56° 44° | 55° 45° | 60° 48° | 58° 33° | 39° 32° |

# MERRILL ADAMS
## CROWNED MISS CASSOPOLIS 2025

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — A new royal court has been crowned to represent the Cassopolis community.

Merrill Adams was crowned Miss Cassopolis 2025 Saturday afternoon at Cassopolis Ross Beatty High School. Stephen Linton was crowned Mr. Cassopolis 2025.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," Adams said. "I'm just so excited."

The event was the pinnacle of the Miss Cassopolis pageant, in which Little Miss, Miss Junior Teen, Miss Teen and Mr. and Miss and Mr. Cassopolis titles were awarded by a panel of judges. Adams inherits the crown from Miss Cassopolis 2024 Caitlin Jones. Adams was also named Miss Congeniality.

Adams is a senior at Dowagiac Union High School, is enrolled at Ross Beatty for agriculture classes and is dual-enrolled at Southwestern Michigan College. She is the Vice President of the Cassopolis FFA chapter, Michigan's Region One FFA Reporter, is a member of Student Senate, Vice President of the Dowagiac National Honor Society, Rotary Interact Club

Adams also participates in 4-H and is a member of Miss Michele & Co.'s Competitive Dance Team. After high school, she plans to attend college to earn her bachelor's degree in animal science and pursue a career in the beef industry. Her

**See ADAMS,** Page A8

**ABOVE: Merrill Adams was crowned Miss Cassopolis 2025 Saturday afternoon at Cassopolis Ross Beatty High School.**

PHOTOS BY MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
From left: Second runner-up Lacey Butcher, first runner-up Madison Conner, Mr. Cassopolis Stephen Linton, third runner-up Stephen Linton.

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## MOCCASIN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS THANK VETERANS

**SUBMITTED** | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

**Moccasin Elementary School music teacher Ms. Prestine and the third grade class welcomed local veterans November 12th to thank them for their service in honor of Veteran's Day. The program invited veterans for muffins and coffee, songs and celebrations.**

# Honor Credit Union announces winners of annual Teacher Awards

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Honor Credit Union announced Tuesday its annual Teacher Award winners.

For 15 years, HCU has supported educators with a total of $40,000 awarded to 40 outstanding teachers across its 28 member center communities. Each winning teacher received a $500 digital gift card to enhance their classrooms, reflecting a $5,000 increase from 2023.

Originally founded as Berrien Teachers Credit Union 90 years ago, Honor continues its mission to give back, and proudly honors the invaluable contributions teachers make to our communities.

During a surprise presentation to Monica Luke, a 7th-grade Social Studies teacher at Buchanan Middle School, expressed her gratitude on receiving this award.

"I am grateful. I am humbled," Luke said. "I am amazed, because I know that there are so many great projects out there that teachers are trying to do."

Honor Credit Union extends its congratulations to all the dedicated educators who make a lasting impact on their students and communities.

**Listed are the winners from Leader Publications' coverage area:**

Brandywine Community Schools – Melissa Foster

Buchanan Community Schools - Monica Luke

Dowagiac Union Schools - Mikiah Piazza

Niles Community Schools - Katie Filley

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## DEATH NOTICES

**Harold Finley**, 98, of McDonough, Georgia, passed away on Saturday, November 2, 2024. A service will be held at Mount Calvary Baptist Church on Friday, November 15, 2024 at 12:00pm.

**George A. Bergman**, 93, of Cassopolis, died Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

## OBITUARIES

### Betty Ackerman

*October 7, 1928 - October 28, 2024*

Betty Lou Ackerman, age 96, passed away Monday, October 28, 2024.

Her life began October 7, 1928 in LaGrange, Indiana born to Samuel and Lucille Wonders. She married James Schuyler Ackerman March 18, 1948 in Angola, Indiana. After almost sixty-five years of marriage, he preceded her in death in 2013.

Betty and Jim lived in Cassopolis since 1957, coming from South Bend, Indiana. She was a licensed Real Estate Broker in Indiana and was associated with her husband at Jim Ackerman Realty in Cassopolis. Betty was an active member of the Cassopolis United Methodist Church, served as music chairman and sang in the choir for many years. She is also active in Cass County Council on Aging.

Mrs. Ackerman will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by two grandsons, Greg (Stephanie) Lozier, Jeff (Sharon) Lozier, both of Texas; two great grandson, Eli Lozier and Gabriel Lozier.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by their daughter, Belinda Lou Ackerman Lozier in 2003, and her adoptive father, Knight Whitman.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Mrs. Ackerman be made to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105, or, Cassopolis United Methodist Church, 209 South Rowland Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, or, Cass County Council on Aging, Post Office Box 5, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Connelly Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

### Marjorie Aldrich

*May 22, 1928 - November 11, 2024*

Marjorie Gertrude Aldrich, formerly of Buchanan, MI, born on May 22, 1928, in La Porte, IN, was a beacon of love and compassion throughout her life. We are heartbroken to announce her passing on November 11, 2024. Marjorie, a resolute pillar of strength and support for her family, leaves behind an indelible legacy of courage, resilience, and unyielding love. Her adventurous spirit, seen in her extensive travels and her fondness for trains. She brought joy to all that knew her.

Marjorie spent most of her professional life as a dedicated clerk at Michigan Power Company in Niles, where her diligent work ethic and unwavering commitment were widely respected and admired. Her free time was often spent at home in Buchanan, MI, where she crafted beautiful crochet pot holders, each one a testament to her creativity and meticulous attention to detail. Married on June 4, 1950, Marjorie and her beloved husband, Oris Richard "Dick" Aldrich, had a love story that spanned seven decades and served as a beautiful testament to enduring commitment.

Marjorie is survived by her loving husband Dick, her daughters Darleen (John) Davis and Nancee (Steven) Walter; 7 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack Ekins and Gertrude Clemens, and her son, Steven Aldrich. Her memory will forever be cherished by those who were fortunate to have known her.

As we remember Marjorie, we celebrate her life, her accomplishments, and the love she generously shared with all of us. We invite you to leave your memories and upload photos of Marjorie on her memorial page, as we keep her spirit alive in our hearts and minds. Family will have a celebration of life at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, MI.

Memorial donations may be made in her memory to Hospice Foundation, 501 Comfort Place, Mishawaka, IN 46545.

### Amanda Slusher

*March 24, 1968 - November 11, 2024*

Amanda Jeannette Slusher, age 56, of Vandalia, died peacefully Monday November 11, 2024 in the comfort of her home surrounded by her family.

Her life began March 24, 1968 in Niles, born to Roy and Alice Nipper.

Amanda will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband of twenty-seven years, Jim Slusher; three sons, Joe (Ashley) Slusher, Ryan (Kelly) Staton, Austin Slusher; and two grandchildren, Hunter and Cooper Slusher.

Family and friends will gather Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until time of service at 6:00 p.m.in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

### Jean McHenry

*August 8, 1925 - November 8, 2024*

How does a family write down in the few lines of a printed obituary 99 years of a life lived with courage, purpose, adventure, skill and compassion for others? This describes our beloved Aunt Jean McHenry, who passed away peacefully last Friday from a life well lived into an even greater eternity with Jesus Christ, her Savior. (Neva) Jean McHenry, lately of Niles, Michigan, was born August 8, 1925 in Moundsville, West Virginia to the late George and Gladys McHenry, and took her last earthly breath as she slept Friday night, November 8, 2024 in Niles.

Jean was preceded in death by her three siblings: Beverly (Tom) Craig, Ashland, Ohio; George McHenry Jr. (survived by his wife Joy), Edina, Minnesota; Carol (Gary) Averill, Mtn. Home, Arkansas; baby nephew Daniel Lynn Craig, niece Linda Farver (Bill), Ashland, Ohio. She is survived by nieces and nephews Judy (Fred) Rafeld, Ohio; Dorthy (the late Michael) Johnson, Ohio; Mark (Katrina) McHenry, Minnesota; Sue (Tim) Keillor, Minnesota; Stephani (Mark) Wuthnow, Niles, Michigan; John (Melissa) Averill, Alaska; Paul (Barbara) Averill, Pennsylvania and Jim (Andrea) Averill, Pennsylvania. She also had many great-nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews, and great-great-great nieces and nephews living all across America from the East Coast to America's Third Coast, to the West Coast.

Jean was never married or a mother, but was always involved as much as possible in the lives of her nieces and nephews. She also had three especially good friends throughout her life: Ruth Kantzer, Marilyn Kramer, and her cousin Helen Jean Moose, missionary to China. All of these ladies loved to travel, loved adventure and lived their lives with much compassion and kindness toward others. Jean and Ruth met as young women in Ashland, Ohio as they helped put together life vests for the WW II war support effort from home.

Jean played marbles extremely well as an active child (often beating the boys!), and played the trombone in her high school marching band, which performed once for President Franklin Roosevelt as he did a U.S. speaking tour by train. She sang on the radio in Ashland, Ohio when she was a young woman, in an ensemble that was part of a local Bible program. She worked for many years as a federal employee at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio and at the VA Marketing Center located just outside Chicago, Illinois, where she ordered all the canned goods for all the Veterans Hospitals in the country. She retired in 1985 to Dayton, Tennessee, where she met more good friends Edwin and Jane Ellen Farnsworth and a young man, Marty Kramer, who was like a grandson to her. So much of a life, so much good accomplished toward others. . .we're so grateful for you, Aunt Jean!

Condolences, memories, and photos can be shared with Jean's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Jean will be laid to rest in Portage Prairie cemetery, Niles, with visitation starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 16 at Sumnerville Bible Baptist Church, Niles and an 11:00 funeral service with Pastor Dan Greegor. Memorial donations may be made to Sumnerville Bible Baptist Church, Niles MI.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

### Donald McAbee

*November 5, 1940 - November 10, 2024*

It is with a very heavy heart we share the passing of Donald (Don) H. McAbee of Edwardsburg, Michigan.

Mr. McAbee was a proud United States Navy veteran who honorably served his country for 23 years. He served, with his wife and children by his side, in countless duty stations and aboard several US Naval ships to include the USS Shangrila, USS Bon Homme Richard and the USS Roosevelt—no easy task when you have seven children.

Those who knew Mr. McAbee know that he has never met a stranger. While in the US Navy, he also worked as a RV salesman where he enjoyed meeting new people, a trait that would define his post-military entrepreneurial career. Even in retirement, Mr. McAbee held the military close to his heart as a member of the Edwardsburg, Michigan VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars).

Mr. McAbee was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 55 years, Kathryn "Katie" McAbee; his son, Gregory L. McAbee; his parents, Linnie and Pearline McAbee; two grandchildren, Sable and Joseph Kroner; and his Brother-in-Law and good friend, Kenneth Grubbs.

He is survived by his daughters, Sarah Hinkle of Calabash, North Carolina; Trisha Kroner of Moyock, North Carolina; Linda Lengle of Clayton, Delaware; Jennifer Kirksey of Niles, Michigan; Jacqueline McAbee of Edwardsburg, Michigan; Donna McAbee of Indiana and his sister, Linda Grubbs of Niles, Michigan.

Mr. McAbee preferred a quiet and casual life with family as his primary focus. He had seven children, 23 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. He loved to Bar-B-Que and his favorite times were cookouts with family and friends. He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

Services will be held at Brown's Funeral Home in Niles, Michigan on Wednesday, November 20th. Visitation will begin at 11:00 AM and the service will immediately follow at noon concluding with full military honors at the funeral home with the US Navy as well as American Legion Post 51, Buchanan. Mr. McAbee's ashes will be buried at sea by the US Navy with military rites.

As he enjoyed the casual life, the family invites everyone to attend the services in casual attire, if they wish to do so.

If you prefer a charitable donation in lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks you to please donate to Homes for Our Troops (www.HFOTUSA.org) in his name.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

### Richard Worley Sr.

*September 23, 1964 - November 10, 2024*

Richard "Rick" Allen Worley Sr., age 60, passed away on Sunday, November 10, 2024, in Lexington, Kentucky. Rick was born on September 23, 1964, in Niles, Michigan, the son of Nancy Burge Lyons, and Fred Worley. He was the beloved husband of Ruby Beaty Worley, and the father of Renee Fox, April Worley, and Richard Worley, Jr.

Rick grew up in Michigan, living in Niles, Berrien Springs, and Ann Arbor. In 1979, his family relocated to California, and then Glendale Arizona, where he graduated from Deer Valley High School.

Rick lived a life of service to his family and his country. He cared for and led his family with all his heart. Rick served in the United States Army from 1984 until 1993. During that time, he was stationed in various locations in the United States and abroad. He was stationed in Korea for one year, removing bombs from the DMZ and training others in bomb disposal. Rick also was deployed in Operation Desert Storm, where his exemplary service was recognized and he was awarded three Bronze Stars, and the Army Commendation Medal.

His military career is marked with numerous accomplishments and awards. He was a proficient operator of the bomb squad "robot", which led him to work extensively with the Secret Service, FBI, and ATF. He spent many hours teaching classes on various explosives. Rick specially served for six months at the White House, conducting bomb sweeps of the presidential limousine, and travelling with presidential candidates to various campaign events. He retired from the military in 1993, with a rank of Staff Sergeant, E6.

In 1993, Rick accepted a post with the Kentucky State Police in Special Operations as a bomb technician. He served in that capacity many years until he retired because of advancing rheumatoid arthritis, which made it impossible for him to wear a bomb suit, or track fugitives in the hills of Kentucky. He has resided in Lexington since then. Rick loved bass fishing, and University of Michigan football.

Rick leaves behind his beloved wife of thirty-nine years, Ruby Worley; two daughters, Renee Fox and April Worley; a son, Richard Allen Worley, Jr.; and three grandsons, Collin Fox, Jett Fox, and Wesson Senft. He also leaves behind his mother, Nancy Lyons; sister, Dianna Heck; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and aunts and uncles. He is preceded in death by his father, Fred Worley; and his brother, Randall Lee Worley. He will be greatly missed by all.

A memorial service with military honors will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, November 16, at Clark Chapel and Cremation Services - Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with the family from 2:00 PM until the time of service. Pastor Stacey Wilder of Calvary Bible Church will officiate. Please visit Rick's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave condolences to his family at www.clarkch.com.

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Niles Daily Star

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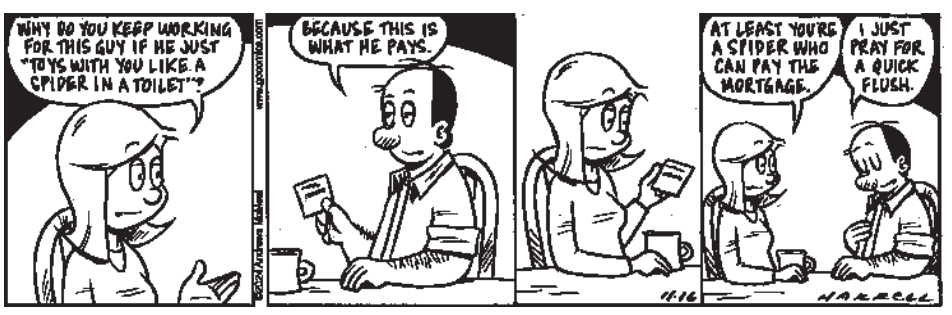
# COMICS & PUZZLES

## ADAM


WHY DO YOU KEEP WORKING FOR THIS GUY IF HE JUST "TOYS WITH YOU LIKE A SPIDER IN A TOILET"?
BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT HE PAYS.
AT LEAST YOU'RE A SPIDER WHO CAN PAY THE MORTGAGE.
I JUST PRAY FOR A QUICK FLUSH.

## ALLEY OOP

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU'RE ENJOYING THE STONE AGE, WEIRD MARV. BUT WE HAVEN'T HUNG OUT IN AGES.
I GET THAT YOU HAVE NEW FRIENDS, BUT I JUST FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T PRIORITIZE ...
NOW'S NOT REALLY THE BEST TIME FOR THIS, ALLEY.
OH, SORRY. I DIDN'T REALIZE.
MARV IS MARV ...ELOUS
WE'D WALK MARV

## ARLO & JANIS

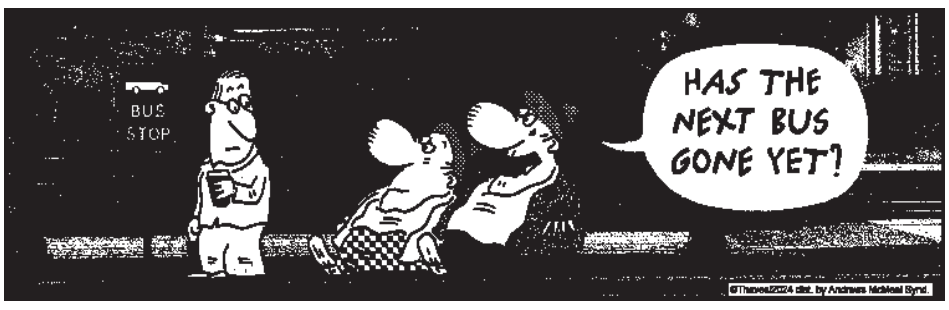
## BIG NATE

!! DAPHNE JUST SAID SHE LOVES ME!
I'VE GOTTA SAY I LOVE HER TOO!
DAPH- *KOFF!* DAPH- ACK!
GAH! ALL OF A SUDDEN I'VE GOT MAJOR COTTON MOUTH!
BEFORE I SAY IT FOR REAL, I HAVE TO PRACTICE!
BOYS
I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.
THIS EXPLAINS SO MUCH.

## BORN LOSER

BET YOU CAN'T GUESS HOW MANY PENNIES ARE IN MY PIGGY BANK!
WHAT ARE YOU BETTING?
THE PENNIES—IF YOU GUESS RIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU BOTH OF THEM!

## FRANK & ERNEST




## GRIZZWELLS

## THATABABY

THIS WOULD BE A GREAT TIME FOR A PICK-SIX AND A TWO-POINT CONVERSION!
THAT, FOLLOWED BY A SUCCESSFUL ONSIDE KICK RUN IN FOR A T.D. WITH YET ANOTHER TWO-POINT CONVERT!
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## SODOKU PUZZLE

**HOW TO PLAY:** Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

**DIFFICULTY RATING:** 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

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| 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | |
| | | | | 7 | 9 | | 1 | |

## MODERATELY CONFUSED

IF MY TEAM WINS, I DESERVE A BEER.
IF MY TEAM LOSES, I NEED A BEER.
STAHLER
11/16
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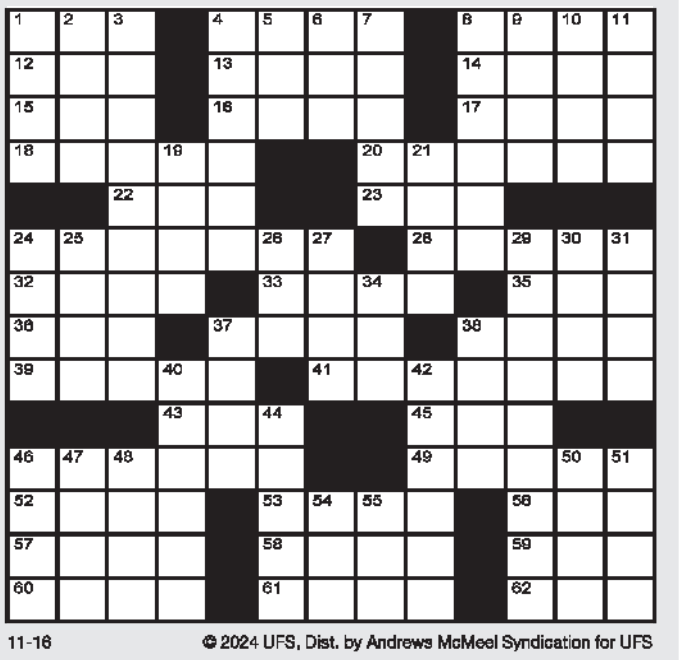
## REALITY CHECK

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**
1 — Vegas
4 Cheese in a trap
8 Online activity
12 Old coin
13 Lab burner
14 "From — to Eternity"
15 Mess up
16 Stack
17 "— La Douce"
18 Ribbed fabric
20 Vexes
22 Railways on trestles
23 Collection
24 Kitchen furniture
28 Ancient Mexican
32 Took the bus
33 Poet — Whitman
35 Fire remains
36 Shock and —
37 Israeli dance
38 Dancer — Pavlova
39 Singer — Manilow
41 Strut
43 Game official
45 Owed
46 Singer — Dion
49 Left-hand page
52 Word in forecasts
53 French cleric
56 Kind
57 "Woe — —!"
58 Nickel or dime
59 Likewise not
60 Drop
61 Derisive cry
62 Greek vowel

**DOWN**
1 Dregs
2 "God's Little —"
3 Give up
4 Command
5 Stopped for lunch
6 "— — manner of speaking"
7 Spanish finger food
8 Shiny cloth
9 "Last Action —"
10 Horde
11 Light meals
19 Merriment
21 Unmixed, said of liquor
24 Dull
25 Land-locked state
26 Little-used bill
27 "I'm all —!"
29 Citrus fruit
30 Serf
31 Burn
34 Legislation
37 Religious song
38 Fever
40 Spoiled
42 Arrival
44 Stone fruit
46 Feeding trough
47 Facilitate
48 Peru's capital
50 Opening
51 Pod used in gumbo
54 Scary yell
55 Life story

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



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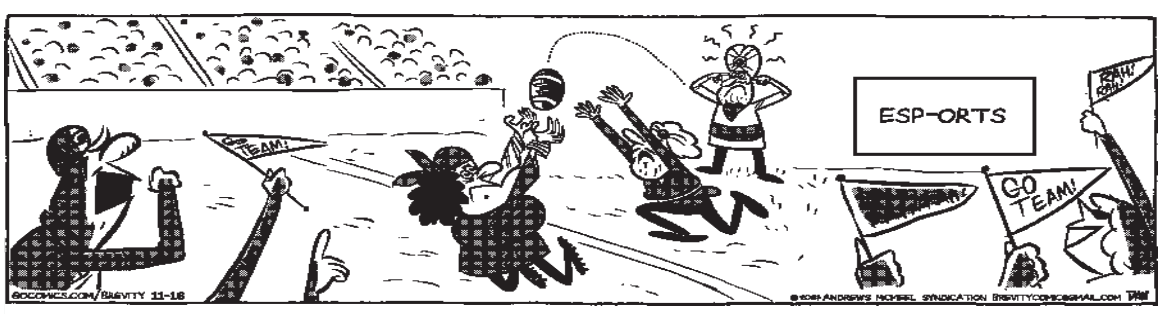
## BREVITY




## HEART OF THE CITY

I HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD TIME VOLUNTEERING! WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART?
GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY!
MEETING NEW PEOPLE!
HANGING OUT WITH KAT.
HANGING OUT WITH LEE.
ALL GREAT THINGS!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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# OBITUARIES

Continued from page A4

## Linda Lou Criffield

*December 04, 1943 - November 11, 2024*

Linda Lou Criffield, 80, passed away on Monday, November 11, 2024 in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Linda was born on December 4, 1943 in Paw Paw, Michigan to the late John Melburn Davis and Gertrude Elizabeth (Klinkers) Davis.

Along with her parents, Linda was preceded in death by her grandson, Auston Tyler Baker and brother-in-law, Chester "Ky" Tortorelli.

Left to cherish the memory of Linda is her husband of 63 years, Larry Lloyd Criffield; children, Lorri (Darin) Rife, Lonny Criffield, and Larinda (Chris) Rockafellow; grandchildren, Danyelle (Tony) Black, Karlee (John) Anible, Lorrin (Dusten) Smith, and Jaelin (Seth) Vantilburg and siblings, Jim (Debbie) Davis, Donald (Sharon) Davis, and Karron Tortorelli.

Linda's zest for life was unmistakable; known as 'Granny,' she reveled in the joys of dancing, globe-trotting, and the simple pleasure of a beer with friends. She embarked on adventures from Alaska to Hawaii, traveled from Jamaica to the Dominican Republic, and roamed from Germany to Switzerland, creating memories that spanned continents.

With a passion for the outdoors, Linda was an avid fishing partner and an accomplished mushroom hunter. The open road was her sanctuary, often found driving with no destination but the company of her driver of choice. She left a legacy of exploration, taking her grandchildren on celebratory trips following their high school graduations.

Linda's life was a tapestry of connections, always visiting family and friends, her joy magnified by the arrival of 10 great-grandchildren. Fortunate to have her siblings close, Linda's presence was a gift to her family, and her spirit will forever dance in the hearts of those she loved.

Memorial contributions in honor of Linda may be made out to Hidden Acres, 50582 Pleasant St. Dowagiac, Michigan 49047.

Visitation for Linda will be on Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm with a Memorial Service to be held at 1:00pm at Mission Hills Memorial Chapel, 61453 M-51, Niles, MI 49120.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

## Nancy McKay

*August 11, 1936 - November 13, 2024*

Nancy M. McKay, Dowagiac, MI - Nancy (Moffitt) McKay, 88, passed away on Wednesday, November 13 in Dowagiac with her family by her side. Nancy was born to Russell and Evangeline McCarthy Moffitt in 1936.

Always a city girl at heart, Nancy grew up in Chicago, IL before attending the College of St. Teresa in Winona, MN where she studied applied mathematics. In 1956, Nancy and her roommate attended a Notre Dame football game where she met her future husband, Douglas McKay of Dowagiac, MI.

Immediately following college, Nancy returned to Chicago where she worked for the government on one of their first ever computer systems. At the time, Douglas McKay worked in Cleveland, OH and the two carried on a long-distance relationship until they were married and moved to Dowagiac to start a family.

While living in Dowagiac, Nancy pursued a Master of Education degree at Western Michigan University and received a certificate in teaching. She went on to teach at the Decatur Elementary School for more than twenty years, retiring in 1998.

Nancy was a voracious reader and loved traveling the world with friends and family. She loved cards and board games, and always looked forward to Mahjong, Hand and Foot, and especially Bridge club with her friends. Grammy, as she was known to her six grandchildren, embraced her role as a proud, loving, and doting grandmother.

Nancy is survived by her daughter Marla and her husband Michael Jennings of Littleton, CO; Stephen and his wife Elaine of San Mateo, CA; and David and Rose Rangel of Dowagiac, MI. She was the proud grandmother of Meghan and Keri Jennings; Zachary, Zoe and Brianna McKay; and Lucas McKay.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Monday, November 18 at 10:00AM with a time of visitation from 9:00 - 10:00 AM at Holy Maternity of Mary Catholic Church; 210 N. Front Street, Dowagiac, MI. Arrangements by The Clark Chapel, 405 Center St., Dowagiac, 49047.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Nancy McKay's honor to the Dowagiac Public Library, 211 Commercial St. Dowagiac, MI 49047; the Holy Maternity of Mary Church in Dowagiac; or to an organization of your choice.

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### CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

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### SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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# County commissioners cover budget, parks plan

**By DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County Commissioners covered a wide set of topics in a busy set of meetings Thursday morning. Commissioners heard a presentation on the new 2025 county budget, the proposed county parks plan five year update and work to get a new court software system up and running.

Commissioners held a public hearing on the 2025 budget during the board's regular meeting and heard from Finance Director Doug James. The county board is expected to approve the new budget at their meeting next Thursday, Nov. 21.

James reported that the budget for primary government functions has revenue set at $216.680 million, expenditures of $233.953 million and the use of $17.273 million in fund reserves. Primary government covers the general fund, special revenue funds, debt service funds, capital projects funds, internal service funds and enterprise funds.

He noted that the county budget has grown a lot over the last few years, both in budget numbers and the number of county employees. For example, the number of county employees have grown from 789.4 full time equivalents in 2021 to 842.8 next year.

Millage rates for the 2025 year are 4.768 mills for general operating, .1 mill for parks, .4495 mill for 9-1-1, .3496 mill for public safety and .2297 mill for senior centers. Those millage rates take into account the recent tax reassessment coming from the resolution of the Cook Nuclear Plant tax assessment dispute.

Overall, he said the new budget reflects increases in expenditures for salaries and benefits as well as an increase in property tax revenue on the revenue side.

Capital projects are still in the 2025 budget but the money set aside for those projects are down due to the winding down of American Rescue Plan Act funding. Projects still in the budget include $1.939 million for the 9-1-1 tower and a total of nearly $6 million for items cited in the county's facility study.

County Park Director Jill Adams gave an overview of the proposed five year park and recreation plan for 2025-29. She noted that three public open houses were held and that public comments on the draft plan will be accepted through Nov. 18. A public hearing will be held in December and the plan will be submitted to the state before the end of the year.

The overall plan goals are to maintain park facilities, improve amenities and have the staff to do so. Specific goals include enhancing and expanding trails inside and outside county parks, controlling invasive species at Love Creek and Galien River county parks, implementing the Silver Beach master plan and making improvements at Madeline Bertrand.

Adams said the improvements for Madeline Bertrand County Park south of Niles on the state line include building a new pavilion and expanding recreation opportunities in the park's new acreage on the north side of the park. She added they are considering expanding the disc golf course.

The last big discussion item concerned the Trial Court's switch to a new software case management system called JWorks. The switch from the old system to JWorks has actually been years in the making but went live in April.

Trial Court Administrator Carrie Smietanka-Haney and Information Systems Director Chris Swihart spoke about the switch in light of concerns raised in recent months by county officials and others. People have questioned why the new court system doesn't interface with the systems used by other entities including the prosecutor's office and the jail.

They said that the process of getting the different systems to interface and connect with each other is ongoing and involves a lot of manual work entering data and getting the JWorks system to create reports such as court calendars and dockets and jail overcrowding reports.

"Change is hard but it is necessary," Smietanka-Haney said. "We will work through it and we are seeing improvements since it started. JWorks will work and does work, it just doesn't work the way it did for 30 years."

County Board Chairman McKinley Elliott acknowledged he has registered concerns about the new case management system. He said he fears that there will be costs to prosecutors and attorneys not being able to see data and information in real time.

# Dowagiac man sentenced for assaulting woman, killing dog

**By DEBRA HAIGHT**
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — A Dowagiac man who assaulted his former girlfriend and killed her dog was sentenced to probation and jail Nov. 8 in Cass County Circuit Court.

Joshua Ryan Cowley, 23, of South Lowe Street in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to third-degree killing or torturing animals and was sentenced to two years probation, 60 days in jail with credit for 11 days served, 100 hours of community service and $2,828 in fines and costs.

He also pleaded guilty to domestic violence and was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for 11 days served and $780 in fines, costs and restitution.

The incident occurred July 1 in Dowagiac. Cowley broke into his former girlfriend's home by breaking a window, pinned her against a wall, attempted to grab her phone and kicked and killed her chihuahua.

Defense attorney Robert Kardatzke said that Cowley has a limited record and has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Cowley said he was truly sorry for his actions and will do everything he can to make sure something like this doesn't happen again.

"With a temper like yours, you shouldn't be surprised that someone would want to break up with you," Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman said. "Breaking in and killing a dog is not the way to a woman's heart."

Judge Herman said he was also concerned that Cowley had been given the chance the month before this incident to keep another domestic violence charge off his record. "Then you did this," he said. "It looks like you don't take domestic violence very seriously, then you had the audacity to kick her dog and kill it."

"You need to change now or we'll be seeing a lot of you," he added. "Killing an animal is a four year felony and the next domestic violence charge you have will be a five year felony. If you commit another domestic violence, you can rest assured that the court will be looking at a long jail or prison sentence."

While the recommendation was for no additional jail time, Judge Herman said he thought more jail was appropriate. "You were on probation for domestic violence and you deliberately killed a dog, it was another way to exert more control over her," he said. "That's not going to be tolerated in a civilized society."

Another Dowagiac man was sentenced to probation for criminal sexual conduct against a minor female earlier this year.

Trent Aaron Conrad, 22, of Vineyard Place in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal sexual conduct and was sentenced to five years probation, credit for 17 days served, $3,408 in fines and costs and registering as a sex offender.

The incident occurred March 25 in Dowagiac.

Cass County Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning said that the prosecutor's office entered into the plea agreement for no additional jail time after speaking with the victim and her family. While the sentencing guidelines would call for a prison term, he said the agreement saved the victim from having to testify in a trial.

Defense attorney Greg Feldman said that Conrad is in control of his life and knows what he needs to do in terms of counseling and registering as a sex offender so as to not violate his probation.

Judge Herman noted that Conrad had been drinking whiskey and smoking marijuana at the time of the incident. "You need to hear me loud and clear," he told Conrad. "I'm going to go along with it but you need to make sure you comply with the conditions imposed. If you don't, the guidelines call for no less than three years in prison."

A Cassopolis teen will get the chance to keep a felony charge off his record if he's successful on probation.

Kole Gabriel Homer, 19, of South East Street in Cassopolis, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to two years probation under the Holmes Youthful Training Act, credit for 15 days served and $1,978 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 22 at a gas station on North Front Street in Dowagiac. Police were called on a report that someone had pointed a gun at a person. Hamer was arrested in Cassopolis after another call about shots being fired.

"This is an opportunity to have this off the record," the judge said. "If you truly want a job in the future, you don't want a felony on your record. If you're serious about wanting to get a job, you need to really appreciate getting this off your record ... I will give you this, but it takes buy in from you. You're an adult, you need to take life seriously."

Also Friday, a Dowagiac man already facing charges in Berrien County was given credit for time served.

Ryan Anthony Vylonis, 43, of Davis Lane in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty at attempted receiving, concealing or possession of stolen property $1,000 to $20,000 and was sentenced to credit for 132 days served and $1,548 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Dec. 19, 2023 in Howard Township. Police received a report of a stolen trailer and stopped Vylonis on Barron Lake Road. Vylonis claimed he had bought the $6,000 trailer from two people for $1,000 and didn't have a bill of sale.

"You're 43 years old and no stranger to the system," Judge Herman said. "You have been convicted of having stolen property more than once. If a deal is too good to pass up, you need to pass it up. You buy a $6,000 trailer for $1,000 from two guys you don't know, even a third grader knows that's too good to be true."

Vylonis faces meth and probation violation charges in Berrien County and also a 2005 warrant out of Warren, Mich.

## PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Chewy**, a 7-year-old male cat with Animal Aid. Chewy weighs 15 pounds, Is described by volunteers as loving and enjoys walks on a leash. He is sociable and is a gentleman with the litter box. Chewy is neutered and current on shots. Contact Animal Aid at (269) 934-7729.

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# ADAMS

Continued from page A2

dream is to have her own show cattle farm and help future generations find their passion not only in showing livestock but also the agricultural industry.

"I wanted to use all my skills from FFA and dance and all my other extracurriculars and just put them all together and try something new," Adams said.

Contestants from each category performed a dance routine before taking part in formal presentations, a few questions and a walk-through. The event also featured a performance by the Miss Michele & Co. dance team.

Adams is looking forward to representing Cassopolis in the 2025 Blossomtime Festival in April. Established in 1906, Blossomtime is Michigan's oldest and largest multi-community festival.

Joining Adams in Blossomtime festivities will be Stephen Linton. A senior at Edwardsburg High School, Stephen participates in tennis, golf, bowling, robotics and taking part in The Fellowship of Christian Students Club. Stephen plans to graduate high school and then attend Central Michigan University to obtain his degree in engineering.

Throughout her reign, Adams hopes to inspire the next generation to try new things.

"I want them to be themselves and really try something new, because you never know what is gonna happen," she said. "I've never done a patent before and before and look where it ended up taking me?"

Joining Adams in her court of honor is first runner-up Madison Conner, second runner-up Lacey Butcher, third runner-up Kayla Grover and Stephen Linton.

**MISS CASSOPOLIS PAGEANT RESULTS**

**Little Miss Cassopolis**

Second runner-up – Caraline Martynowicz

First runner-up – Isabella Hester

Winner – MaKenna Williams

**Miss Junior Teen Cassopolis**

First runner-up – Mia Conner

Winner – Khloe Hester

**Miss Teen Cassopolis**

First runner-up – Gennavieve Martynowicz

Winner – Katelin Glon

**Mr. Teen Cassopolis**

Bryce Linton

**Miss Cassopolis**

Third runner-up – Kayla Grover

Second runner-up – Lacey Butcher

First runner-up – Madison Conner

Winner – Merrill Adams

**Mr. Cassopolis**

Stephen Linton

# FUN

Continued from page A1

charged the expenses to the Clerk's election supplies budget.

• Approved the Stop Loss Insurance Policy with Sun Life for a policy period of Jan. 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2025 with a monthly premium of $41,453.32.

• Approved renewal of the Basic Life Insurance premium, Basic Accidental Death and Disability Premium, and Long Term Disability premium and charged the premiums to the General Fund and Utilities Budgets.

• Authorized the Fire Department to purchase hose nozzles from Macqueen Equipment of Delafield, Wisconsin at a cost of $6,552 and utilized ARPA funds for this purchase.

• Authorized the Fire Department to purchase two portable battery-operated fans from Macqueen Equipment of Delafield, Wisconsin at a cost of $8,200 and utilize ARPA funds for this purchase.

• Authorized the Fire Department to purchase fire hose from Darley Fire Equipment of Itasca, Illinois at a cost of $37,448 and utilized ARPA funds for this purchase.

• Authorized the Fire Department to purchase a hand-held Thermal Imaging Camera from Municipal Emergency Services of Indianapolis, Ind. at a cost of $3,864.04 and utilized ARPA funds for the purchase.

# CITY

Continued from page A1

mayor Tuesday. Swem was elected mayor pro-tem in a vote by fellow commissioners and it is the first time he has held that position. Weedon had been mayor pro tem before becoming mayor.

Tuesday's meeting also featured action on one of two infrastructure projects. City Manager Tim Lynch spoke about both projects, recommending the commission rebid the Front Street retaining wall project and move forward with making structural repairs to the McCoy Creek culvert on Days Avenue.

The commission had postponed action on the retaining wall when only two bids were received and the high bidder was the only who would commit to finish the work by Dec. 20. Lynch said Tuesday that he believes the city will get more bids if the deadline is extended to next June.

On the McCoy Creek culvert project to repair the culvert and the sink hole on Days Avenue, commissioners heard from Lynch and Abonmarche engineer Mike Morphey before voting to accept the only bid from Riverworks Construction of Holland for $702,230 to do the work.

Lynch said that eight to 10 bid packages were sent out with only Riverworks submitting a bid. He and Morphey recommended going forward with the bid even though it was the only one because it was in line with the estimates for the project.

When asked about the lack of bidders, Morphey said that there is plenty of work available and contractors have their choice of what projects they want to do. He added that this project is a little different than most as it involves the creek running underneath. He did say that the city has been working closely with state environmental officials on the project.

Lynch also reassured city residents about a letter sent out last week concerning lead pipe water service line replacement. He said he and other city staff had received numerous calls about the letter which he described as a standardized letter the state is requiring municipalities to send out by Nov. 15.

He reiterated that the city's water is safe and is regularly tested for lead. He said that the most recent lead testing has found that city water had lead levels measured between zero and three parts per billion. The state's lead action level is 15 parts per billion.

He noted that the city has received a $558,000 grant to identify the composition of all water lines in the city and he said the city is applying for more grants to actually inspect water lines in the city and then remove lead lines.

Commissioners went into closed session to review city manager candidates. After the hour-long closed session, commissioners agreed to interview five people who were identified only by numbers. The first round of interviews will be Friday, Nov. 22 starting at 10 a.m. with a possible second round of interviews held on Nov. 25.

In board appointments, Commissioner Dan Vigansky was appointed to the planning commission and zoning board of appeals, Money and Swem to the joint water/sewer board, Commissioner Raquell George to the Buchanan Area Recreation Board, Swem to the landfill board and finance committee, Money to the Board of Review, cemetery board and SMCAS board.

Vigansky and George will also serve as the city's representatives on a soon to be formed downtown business organization.

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FOOTBALL

## Niles shuts down Edwardsburg 21-0, wins second straight district title

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The Niles football team pulled away in the fourth quarter against rival Edwardsburg Nov. 8 in the Division 4 district championship game.

Paul Hess scored two fourth quarter touchdowns as the Vikings shut down the Eddies 21-0 to claim their second straight district title.

NIles outgained Edwardsburg 252-219 in a game that was much closer than the score indicates. Hess had 24 carries for 137 yards and two touchdowns on offense and Sam Rucker tallied 10 carries for 69 yards and one touchdown and nine total tackles. Waard Cheney led the team in tackles with 11 and added a sack.

Edwardsburg's Grant Griffin had nine carries for 43 yards and Grady Ostrander totaled nine carries for 40 yards and quarterback Joe Lundgren added seven carries for 38 yards.

"Credit to Niles, they made it awfully tough on us," said Edwardsburg Head Coach Dan Purlee. "They're a good football team. They played really aggressive and we didn't execute it as well as we needed to against a team like that tonight."

Leading 7-0 entering the fourth quarter thanks to a seven-yard Sam Rucker touchdown run in the first quarter, the Vikings defense came up with a stop on fourth-and-10 to take over on its own 30-yard line. The offensive line paved the way for senior running back Paul Hess, who capped a 10-play, 70-yard scoring drive with a 10-yard touchdown run to put the Vikings up 14-0 with 6:30 to go in the game.

The Eddies took over at their own 30-yard line looking to make it a one-score game before a fumble on the first play of the drive was recovered by the Vikings, who took advantage of the turnover in the form of a 1-yard Hess touchdown to make it 21-0 with

**See TITLE,** Page B3

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VOLLEYBALL

# HARPER CREEK RALLY
## ENDS NILES' VOLLEYBALL SEASON

**By SCOTT HASSINGER**
Leader Publications Contributor

BATTLE CREEK — Gritty Niles came into Tuesday's Division 2 regional volleyball semi-finals hoping to derail top-ranked Battle Creek Harper Creek.

For one game it appeared that Vince Strefling's Vikings might be up to the task.

Niles won the opening set before dropping the last three and saw its season end with a 25-21, 19-25, 13-25, 17-25 loss to the Beavers.

Harper Creek (50-4) will meet Three Rivers (28-11-8), a four-set winner over Lansing Catholic Central, in Thursday's regional championship match at 6 p.m.

"In my opinion we dominated that first game with our passing and our defense was incredible. This is a young team though and we just need more time to develop more consistency. We have potential and it will turn around," said Strefling, Niles' first-year head coach.

Niles trailed Harper Creek by as many as six points, (18-12) after the Beavers got a tip from Western Michigan University signee and star senior middle blocker Cassidy Prately.

Niles rallied late behind the serving of senior hitter Bree Lake and knotted the score up at 19-19. The Vikings grabbed the lead (22-19) on its next service rotation after three consecutive service points from Ellie Bradley.

Harper Creek got consecutive kills from Krista Brannen and Prately to inch within a point (22-21) of Niles. But a tip by Kaydence Jacobs, an unforced error and an ace by Maddie Zache helped the Vikings win the first set.

Niles battled Harper Creek early in game two before falling behind by nine points (21-12) following an ace by the Beavers' senior outside hitter Ella Chantrenne.

The Vikings staged a late rally and pulled within (22-18) before the Beavers eventually evened the match at 1-1 following two Brannen kills and a unforced error.

Another Prately kill gave Harper Creek a 10-point cushion (18-8) in the third game. A Brannen kill extended the Beavers' lead to 21-11. Harper Creek got kills on the final two points of the game from Chantrenne and Avery Clark to go up 2-1.

**See ENDS,** Page B3

**SCOTT HASSINGER** | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
**TOP: Niles' Tanaya Brown (9) works to score a point at the net against Battle Creek Harper Creek's Camille Robinson (10) and Krista Brannen (4).**
**ABOVE: Niles senior hitter Bree Lake (7) tries to get a kill past Harper Creek blockers Cassidy Prately (12) and Taegen Anderson (11).**

FOOTBALL

## Former Notre Dame football coach Gerry Faust passes away

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

Gerry Faust, head football coach at Notre Dame from 1981-85 and legendary Moeller High School (Cincinnati) head coach, has passed away at the age of 89. Faust was hired at Notre Dame directly from Moeller High School for the 1981 season. He finished his Notre Dame coaching career with a 30-26-1 record over five seasons, which included a Liberty Bowl victory over No. 13 Boston College in 1983.

Faust will forever be remembered for his love of the University of Notre Dame. He would often tell the story of trying out for the Fighting Irish football team in the 1950s before deciding to go to Dayton, where he earned three letters as a quarterback under former Notre Dame head coach Hugh Devore. After his retirement from coaching, Faust was a

**See FAUST,** Page B3

WRESTLING

## Koss becomes first NJCAA women's wrestler in Michigan

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

DOWAGIAC — Alyse Koss, formerly of Portage Northern High School and current Southwestern Michigan College student, has signed her NJCAA Letter of Intent to wrestle for Coach Todd Hesson and the Roadrunners during the 2025-2026 season, making her the first official women's wrestler at an NJCAA school in the entire state of Michigan.

In April 2024, SMC's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the addition of Women's Wrestling, Men's Track and Field and Women's Track and Field as official NJCAA sports, to start competition in Fall 2025.

"There are only 29 other NJCAA schools nationally offering women's wrestling, even though it's quickly growing in popularity," said Mike O'Brien, Chief Marketing Officer. "To our knowledge, SMC will be the first two-year college in Michigan to offer the sport, making Alyse the very first wrestler of the new era. We congratulate her and are excited to provide scholarship opportunities for more young women to continue their passion for wrestling and compete for championships while preparing for a career."

Koss was an outstanding wrestler in high school, a

**See KOSS,** Page B3

VOLLEYBALL

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

# SMC volleyball wins 7 conference, regional awards

**COMMUNITY REPORT**

DOWAGIAC — SMC Volleyball was well-represented in the 2024 list of MCCAA and NJCAA Region XII honorees, with seven awards for the Roadrunners.

Freshman Gia Jania was named one of only six players on the MCCAA Western Conference All-Freshman Team. SMC's middle hitter had 122 blocks (a school season record), 233 kills and 36 service aces in her first college campaign, picking up a Defensive Player of the Week honor along the way. Jania was also named to the MCCAA All-Western Conference Second Team.

Sophomore setter Anna Johnson made the MCCAA All-Western Conference Team with an Honorable Mention. Anna crossed 1,000 assists this season in the match at Glen Oaks and kept right on going, finishing with 1,328 for her two-year career.

Sophomore libero Cadence Knight was named to the MCCAA All-Western Conference First Team. She holds all SMC digs records: match (34, 3x), season (778) and career (1,326). She also had 46 service aces this year, won Western Conference Defensive Player of the year four times and earned NJCAA National Defensive Player of the Week once.

Sophomore hitter Josie West also made the MCCAA All-Western Conference First Team. She finishes her second year as the SMC record-holder for kills in a match (24, 2x) and kills in a season (455). West also logged 436 digs, 57 blocks and 30 aces this year. West's performance earned her a spot on the All-MCCAA Team - one of just 15 players throughout the state of Michigan to win that honor - and a place on the NJCAA Region XII Division II All-Region Team, one of just 18 players (in one of the biggest regions in the Association) to be so honored.

West will continue her education and volleyball career next season with the Lake Erie College Storm, an NCAA D2 school in Painesville, Ohio.

# Niles volleyball team beats South Haven to earn D2 District title

**By MAXWELL HARDEN**
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Fueled by home court fans, the Niles volleyball team brought home another district championship trophy Nov. 7.

The Vikings defeated South Haven 25-19,23-25,25-12,25-22 to win the Division 2 District Championship, its first district title since 2021 and third overall.

Bree Lake had 15 kills and 13 digs, Nyla Hover 12 kills and 14 digs, Neriah Stevens 10 kills, Kendall Gerdes nine kills and three blocks and Maddie Zache 18 digs.

"I think our middles in the first couple games dominated, then it was taken over by the two outsides," said Head Coach Vince Strefling. "They did a really nice job figuring them out. Defensively, they're scrappy and we matched their scrappiness. It was fun volleyball to watch."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Strefling was proud of the way his team prevailed following an emotional five-set win over rival Buchanan in the semifinals.

"We struggled in game one, I think that was nerves," he said. "I think the Buchanan game took a lot out of us. I think we outperformed what I thought we would do. To get a win with a first year coaching staff changing everything is a good feeling."

Strefling credits his team's success to the rigorous schedule it played this season.

"That helped us and that was the whole purpose of it," he said. "Just play as many hard teams as you possibly can to get ready for districts. I think they're kind of used to playing against competition like that. They bend and they just don't break."

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GOLF

# Guernsey signs with Bethel University women's golf

**STAFF REPORT**

DOWAGIAC — A Dowagiac senior will be taking her talents to the next level.

Rebecca Guernsey signed her letter of intent Thursday to play golf at Bethel University.

After leading the Chieftains to the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 3 State Golf Finals as a team for the second year in a row, helping Dowagiac place 13th, and finishing sixth as an individual, Guernsey was named Division III first-team All-State for the second year in a row. Guernsey became the first Dowagiac player to earn first-team all-state honors last season when she placed eighth overall at state.

She led the SAC Lakeshore Division with a league-best score of 75 in the division championship at Eastern Hills, where she was the medalist.

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# TITLE

Continued from page B1

2:51 remaining.

"They battled hard and they battled relentlessly and I thought that they did exactly what we wanted to do," said Niles Head Coach Scot Shaw. "We played harder longer than they did and I think that we wore them down on the line of scrimmage in the second half after the stops. They got that drive going and we were fortunate enough to stop it. After that we took it down on that drive then we went all the way, burned up some time and scored and put a cushion between us. They're not the type of team that can come back readily from 21 down in six minutes."

While Edwardsburg was able to put together drives and move the ball, costly penalties and miscues forced the Eddies into third-and-long situations that made it difficult to overcome the Niles defense.

"I thought we could move the ball and they were ready to play," Purlee said. "We didn't move it as well as we needed to, obviously."

Shaw was impressed with the play of his offensive line – a group that has faced adversity in the form of season-ending injuries to key players – against a physical Eddies defense.

"They played well, first of all," Shaw said of his offensive line. "They came off the ball and we didn't have many busts up front. I think we were able to do the things we wanted to do and give Paulie some cracks. When he gets a little daylight, he's pretty dangerous. He runs like a truck. He had a great game and the guys up front made it so."

The Edwardsburg defense focusing on Rucker and Gordon on the perimeter allowed Hess to have success running the ball between the tackles.

"It's great and this is the beauty of our offense," Shaw said. "They were stacked on the outside with three guys outside our end, they weren't going to let Sam and Peyton beat them so Paulie was able to do that. Talon was to get enough runs that he had to be accounted for. It's great to have a lot of weapons. It's just a lot of fun."

"I thought we had a great game plan," Purlee said. "I thought we came out and executed it really well, but I mean, they can hurt you in a lot of different ways and if you make one mistake, you're in trouble."

Edwardsburg's season ends with a 7-4 record. Purlee credits the seniors for their leadership and dedication following a disappointing 5-5 season in 2023.

"They were huge. They were the heart and soul of this group this year," Purlee said. "This happens every year – you hate to see those guys move on but they got bigger and better things ahead of them. They'll be missed, they put in a ton of work but we told the young guys we gotta get back at it and we'll keep working."

With the win, the Vikings (10-1) will gear up to face undefeated Portland at 7 p.m. Friday in the Division 4 Regional Finals. The game is a rematch of last season's Regional which saw the Raiders edge the Vikings 21-14. Portland defeated Hastings 37-14 in its district final.

"I think it means a lot to get back," Shaw said. "We've talked all year about this team being different than last year. Our seniors are a different bunch. This is their team and we want to get back and go a bit further than what we got last year – whether that's all the way or whether it's just another game, whatever – we want to get further than we got last year."

# ENDS

Continued from page B1

Niles held an early 2-1 lead in the fourth game following Lake's kill. The Vikings, however, couldn't sustain that momentum and eventually trailed the Beavers 18-13 after a kill by sophomore Camille Robinson.

Niles wouldn't get any closer than seven points the remainder of the game as Harper Creek closed out the set and match on a thunderous kill from Chantrenne.

"We gave everything we had, but we are still learning how to attack a ball when its not a good pass. We are stil in that stage where everything has to be perfect to beat a team like Harper Creek," Strefling said.

The match was the final one in the careers of Niles seniors Lake, Jacobs and Kendall Gerdes.

"Kaydence ran a good show for us at setter and she'll be missed. Bree was All-Conference and All-Region for us and Kendall will be someone we have to replace in the middle next year," Strefling said.

Lake finished with 11 kills, 12 digs, two blocks and a pair of assists for Niles. Gerdes posted seven kills, a .538 hitting percentage and four blocks. Tanaya Brown finished with six kills. Jacobs posted 22 assists from her setter's position. Nyla Hover added 13 digs and Maddie Zache had 11 digs.

After a middle-of-the-pack finish in the Wolverine Conference, Strefling identified the district championship as one of the high points in a season of adjustment for his team.

"We had a first-year coaching staff, but these kids really developed into a competitive group as the season progressed and won 24 matches. At the regional meeting we learned that we had the fifth toughest schedule in our region. We play a difficult schedule and our libero and a couple outside hitters are all returning next year. All the girls coming back have committed to playing Club in the offseason. We have a nice feeder program to help build things," Strefling said.

# FAUST

Continued from page B1

fixture on campus for Notre Dame football games.

Barely out of college, Faust was selected to be the first head football coach at Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati. He would go on to win 174 games against just 17 losses over 18 seasons, including state titles in five of his last six seasons at the school when his teams compiled a 70-1 record. Approximately 250 players developed by Faust at Moeller earned football scholarships at the collegiate level and Moeller alumni who starred at Notre Dame include Steve Neihaus, Harry Oliver, Tony Hunter and Bob Crable.

Faust coached Notre Dame to victory over No. 10 Michigan in the first night game ever played in Notre Dame Stadium during the 1982 season and won his final three games against rival Southern Cal. He finished his time at Notre Dame with a 30-26-1 record. Dave Duerson, Tom Thayer, Greg Bell, Stacey Toran, Mike Gann, Mark Bavaro and Mike Golic Sr. were among the student-athletes at Notre Dame who Faust helped develop into NFL standouts.

After his time at Notre Dame, Faust coached at the University of Akron from 1986-94, helping lead them through a transition from independent to a member of the Mid-American Conference. Akron finished 7-3-1 in the Zips' first year as a MAC member and Faust finished his run at Akron with a 43-53-3 record.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 60 years, Marlene, daughter Julie and her husband Steve, son Gerry and his wife Dee Dee, son Stephen and his wife Irina Faust, his brother Frederick and sister-in-law Laurie and grandchildren Spencer, Megan, Natalie, Alex, Chloe, Emilie and Igor.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Dec. 13, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Hilary Church, 2750 West Market St, Fairlawn, OH 44333. A Catholic mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m., also at St. Hilary Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Gerard A. Faust Memorial Fund at Archbishop Moeller High School. Donations will honor Coach Faust's legacy by supporting young students who embody his faith, leadership, and dedication values. This will ensure that his spirit and passion for shaping future generations will continue for years.

# KOSS

Continued from page B1

four-year varsity starter and two-year varsity captain who qualified for the MHSAA state meet three times and was named to the MHSAA Women's All-State Team twice.

SMC's Head Wrestling Coach Todd Hesson said, "Alyse has a lot of experience as a state-level competitor. She is a very hard worker and excited to wrestle in college."

Portage Northern Coach Chris Dunham said, "Alyse is a very tough kid, with a strong desire to get better and she is very coachable!" Coach Chris Furlong added, "Alyse is definitely a gamer...no matter what she is prepared to wrestle anyone."

After a nearly 30-year hiatus, the SMC Men's Wrestling Team returned to NJCAA action in October 2022. In their first year back, with an all-freshman team, the Roadrunners went 5-0 and won the MCCAA Duals Meet, won the first MCCAA Conference championship in school history, finished third in the Great Lakes District Meet and qualified nine wrestlers for the NJCAA National Championships in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

In 2023-2024, while moving up to NJCAA Division 1, the Roadrunners again went undefeated in the MCCAA Duals Meet, earned the back-to-back MCCAA Conference championship, were Great Lakes District runners-up and qualified the maximum 10 wrestlers for the national meet. SMC finished the season at #17 in the country and sophomore Caeleb Ishmael of Coloma was named an NJCAA All-American.

Student-athletes interested in competing in men's or women's wrestling or track and field as a Roadrunner should complete the Recruiting Form at https://smcroadrunners.com/landing/index

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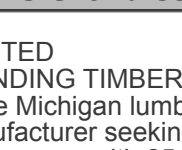

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•Utilities Included
•Income-Based Rent
Apartments for Independent Seniors(62-up, handicap/disabled)
515 E.Monroe Street
South Bend,IN 46601
574-282-2896
TTY:1-800-743-3333

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

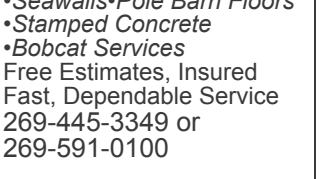
### Wanted To Rent

**Looking for Large Storage Space in Niles or Buchanan Area. All items are clean, no junk. Call (269)262-0162**

## Transportation

### Boats & Watercraft

1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum Deep V 110hp Johnson & Trailer (269)683-2400



**2015 Polar Kraft TX 165 Bass Fishing Boat**
Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
If I do not answer, leave a message.
Pictures available via text.
$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

### Motorcycles & ATV's

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. $2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

## Services

### Clock Repair

Quality Clock Repair
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls, Free estimates.
269-409-1031

### Concrete Work

BRADY CONCRETE
Specializing in:
•*Flat work of all types*
•*Seawalls*•*Pole Barn Floors*
•*Stamped Concrete*
•*Bobcat Services*
Free Estimates, Insured
Fast, Dependable Service
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269-591-0100

### Construction

**Michiana Masonry & Construction**
**All your Masonry needs!**
**Chimney Cleaning**
**Insured & Bonded**
**Senior Discounts**
**269-362-1566**

SLIM'S CONSTRUCTION
WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARNS ROOFING & CONCRETE
65280 M-66
STURGIS, MI 49091
SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

### Handyman Services

**Joe Hess Remodeling and Construction**
**Over 25 yrs Experience**
**Licensed and Insured**
**269-362-3355-Cell**
**269-684-0349-Home**

•Replacement Windows
•Exterior Doors
•Storm Doors
•Minor Electric
•Light Fixtures
•Minor Plumbing
•Most Home Repairs

### Junk Removal

**AMERICAN TRASH**
**Trash & Junk Hauling**
•*Appliances*•*Truck*•*Trailer*
•*Labor*•*Rental Properties*
•*Demo Clean-Outs*
Veteran Owned Company
**Txt/Call: 574-904-8760**
**useamericantrash.com**

## Miscellaneous Services

**AUCTION**
November Online Consignment Auction bid through Nov. 30. Over 200 lots! Rifles, power tools, farm implements, trailers, sporting goods and more! Visit NarhiAuctions.com for current, future auctions, information or call 810-266-6474.

Two great online auctions and more. Bidding is now open. Tractors, Chevy farm pickup truck, quad, side-by-side, farm implements, shotguns, collectibles, furniture, more! To bid, see entire catalogs visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. 1-800-835-0495.

**BUILDINGS**
BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS State-wide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuildingsmi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010.

POLE BARNS We build ALL year long! BUILT BEST BARNS IN A RUSH? CALL US!!!! Best Quality, Best Service, Now In Our 25TH Year! Over 4,000 Buildings In Michigan Call for QUOTES License/Insured 989-205-2534

**BUSINESS SERVICES**
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 800-983-0462.

**MATTRESSES**
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made in U.S.A, in plastic, with warranty. Retail Cost $3,995.00 sacrifice for $875.00 Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattressMan.com. 989-923-1278

**MISCELLANEOUS**
Amish-built mini-cabins starting at $5,295. Made in Michigan! We deliver statewide. Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-587-8518

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

Want a greener lawn? TruGreens your go-to for a tailored lawn care plan. Act now and get 50% off your first service with a purchase of an annual plan. Call us at 1-855-608-1458 to learn more

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-324-2582

**Make the smart and *ONLY CHOICE* when tackling your roof!**

ERIE Metal Roofs
FREE ESTIMATE
1.844.902.4611
Expires 3/31/2024

Limited Time Offer!
SAVE!
Up to 50% OFF ON YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF
Additional savings for military, health workers and first responders

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriemetalroofs.com/erie-licenses/. VA License Number: 2705029944

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY**

**$1000 OFF***

AND

**No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months****

OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/2024

CALL NOW!

(877) 368-0690

BCI BATH & SHOWER

Military & Senior Discounts Available

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 12/31/2024. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

## Pressure Washing

**J&H POWER WASHING**
**HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, DECKS, FENCING, RV'S/MOTOR HOMES.**

WHY CALL THE REST
WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?
(269) 684-5947
(269) 340-2440
(269) 357-9594

## Roofing and Guttering

**Bill's Roof Repair**
Residential & Commercial
•Repairs•New Roofs
•Shingles•Flat Roofs
•Metal/Rubber•Flashing
•Chimney Repairs
•Vent Pipes•Gutters•Sidings
**Lifetime Warranty on All Labor Performed**
**Free Estimates**
Call Us Now!!
**269-591-5700**
**Visit us at:**
**billsroofrepair.com and Facebook!!**

**MIDWEST ROOFING**
*Family Owned Since 1984*
**Lifetime Warranty Shingles**
**Flat Roofs & Gutter Covers**
**Call (269) 684-7199**

**Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.**
We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Shelby & Chilton County Classifieds has customizable programs available to fit any budget.
DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
205.280.5667

## Tree Service

**EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE**
*FREE ESTIMATES!!!*
•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
• STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
*FULLY INSURED.*
**PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.**

## Public Notices

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ONTWA TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Please take notice that the Ontwa Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:30 pm., at the Ontwa Township Hall located at 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, to consider a proposed amendment to the Ontwa Township Zoning Ordinance.
The proposed amendments are summarized as follows:
• An amendment to Article III, General Provisions, of the zoning ordinance is proposed. If adopted, the amendment would add a new section regulating docks and piers, including requirements for setbacks, permitting, and projections into channels.
Copies of the Township proposed amendment, the zoning ordinance, and the zoning map are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the Township Hall, 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, or on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org.
Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Ontwa Township Clerk at the Ontwa Township Hall during regular business hours and may be further received by the Planning Commission during the public hearing.
Oral comments will be taken during the hearing.
If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped requiring any special assistance, please notify the Township Clerk by calling (269) 663-2347 as soon as possible.
Tina VanBelle
Ontwa Township Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Nov. 16, 2024
**HEARING**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MILTON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MI 32097 Bertrand St Niles, MI 49120**

**To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.**
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** the Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120, to consider the following matter:
SPECIAL LAND USE REQUEST – Kennel - Property is owned by Travis and Jenny Peacock. Property address is 67959 Leet Road, Niles, Michigan 49120, and is 54.18 acres. Parcel ID Number is 14-070-003-012-05 and is zoned Agricultural.
**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that Section 15.40 Kennel, allows a kennel with approval by the Planning Commission as a Special Land Use.
**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendments, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing, and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.
**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing. Copies of the Application are available for inspection at the Milton Township Hall during regular open business hours. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.
Milton Township Planning Commission

Niles Daily Star:
Nov. 16, 2024
**HEARING**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday November 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

| Unit# | Name |
|---|---|
| 10 | Charmin Kelly |
| 16 | Tyson Fuller |
| 32 | Eric Johnson |
| 67 | Jerom Jankowiak |
| 75 | David Elam |
| 99 | Jimmie Tayler |
| 108 | Terry Riege |
| 114 | Tellie Doan |
| 116 | Melissa Kaeding |
| 119 | Kyle Tracey |
| 145/468 | Michael Merritt |
| 151 | Remy Lane |
| 157 | Glen Wynegar |
| 177 | Larry Wegrecki |
| 183 | Cindy Fisher |
| 184/66 | Mary Anderson |
| 191 | Alan Smith |
| 192 | Patricia Yoder |
| 205 | Nancy Bombrys |
| 217 | James Russell |
| 255 | Philip Trowbridge |
| 278 | Chelsie Carlyle |
| 284 | Kathleen Peterson |
| 289 | Janay Goins |
| 329 | Christy Treiber |
| 335 | Douglas Hawley Jr. |
| 337 | Nikalas Wodatzke |
| 342 | Terrence Moss |
| 346 | DaMonica Williams |
| 356 | Chase Molica |
| 375 | Jenna Shirrell |
| 389 | Parnell Jenkins |
| 390 | Larry Hungerford |
| 395 | Carl Backus |
| 396 | Patricia Spencer |
| 399 | Les Hart |
| 403 | Xavier Williams |
| 410/534 | Rebecca Coleman |
| 424 | Edwin Cota |
| 442 | Dawn Hojara |
| 486 | Leigh Anne Norris |
| 514 | Christopher Kohut |
| 529 | Robert Wojcik |
| 538 | Joe Rose |
| 541 | Nicole Hurt |
| 572 | Chaten Reese |
| 581 | Chris Anderson |
| 596/566/552 | Anthony Marzolo |
| 601 | Jill Pollock |
| 608 | Robert Conner |
| 628 | Altavious Stone |
| 638 | Britney Stanczyk |
| 661 | Rodney Prescott |
| 677/567 | Julie Potate |

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday November 23, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | Bruce Walls |
| 23 | Henry Krueger |
| 30 | Curtis Sheldon |
| 56 | Angela Johnson |
| 58 | Nathan Haynes |

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday November 23, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

| | |
|---|---|
| 60 | Samantha Williams |
| 99 | Kim Streer |
| 170A | Melissa Visel |
| 230A | Rosiley Marinho |
| 125 | Kristina Hemminger |
| 173 | Alex Robertson |
| 188 | Michael Fedore |
| 206 | Larry Morbach |
| 230 | Mary Johnson/Felisha Liberty |
| 238/466 | James Diss |
| 250 | Robert Clayton/Jessica Vissik |
| 253 | Jesse Williams |
| 263 | Tamara Holmes |
| 292 | The Woodshed Crafts |
| 305 | Bradley Neel |
| 345 | Carol Morrow |
| 370 | Linda Sharrer |
| 373 | Rhonda Sue Outlaw |
| 443 | Autum Collins |

Niles Daily Star:
Nov. 9 and 16, 2024
**STORAGE AUCTION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONTWA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Ontwa Township Board of Trustees was called to order on November 7, at 7pm .
Roll call showed Supervisor Marchetti, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, and Trustee Bolock were present. Trustees Kozinski and Christensen were absent. Trustee Stutsman arrived at 7:06pm.
Approval of the Agenda
Public Comment: No public comment
Approval of Consent Agenda
Commissioners Report: Sam Berrera & Roseann Marchetti
Committee Board Reports: No reports this month
Old Business: Elkhart Road Project
New Business: Resolution to Adjust/Amend the Budget8321 and Zoning
Resolution 3.21
Schedule of township meetings: Board of Trustees December 9 th, Ambulance Board November 13th, Police Board November 14th, Wastewater Board November 20th, Planning Commission December 4th.
Adjournment: 7:20pm
Minutes of Board of Trustee meetings may be found on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org
Respectfully submitted by Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk
Approved for Publication by Supervisor Jerry Marchetti

Niles Daily Star:
Nov. 16, 2024
**SYNOPSIS 11.7.24**

## Legal Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT CASS COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate CASE NO. and JUDGE 2024-248-DE Hon. Carol M. Balor**

**Court address** 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
**Court telephone No.** 269-445-4412
Estate of Dorothy M. Lung
Date of birth: 003/09/1927
**TO ALL CREDITORS:**
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Dorothy M. Lung, died 09/29/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Thomas M. Walz & Lake City Bank by Lili A. Dailey, its VP and Trust Officer, Co-Personal Representatives, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 and the Co-Personal Representatives within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

11/07/2024

Thomas M. Walz 509 W. Washington Street, South Bend, Indiana 46601 574-232-5988
and Lake City Bank by Lili A. Dailey, its VP and Trust Officer, P.O. Box 1387, Warsaw, Indiana 46581 574-267-9190

Thomas M. Walz P74044, 509 W. Washington Street
South Bend, Indiana 46601
574-232-5988

Niles Daily Star:
Nov. 16, 2024
**EST/LUNG, D.**

**Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.**
We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Shelby & Chilton County Classifieds has customizable programs available to fit any budget.
DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
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Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS $1600 OFF
SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB
1-877-591-9950
With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445
EASE OF USE CERTIFIED
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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Finally! Satellite Internet With No Hard Data Limits!
And **FREE** Standard Installation![2]
Limited Time Offer. Restrictions may apply.

RANKED #1 BY THE FCC in Delivering Advertised Download Speeds FOUR YEARS IN A ROW[3]

"You can get High-Speed Internet wherever you live!"

Plans starting at $59.99 MO. for 24 Mos.

**25 Mbps** Download Speed
25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload[1]

**No** Hard Data Limits

**Wi-Fi** Built-In
Connect your wireless devices at home

**CALL TODAY - LIMITED AVAILABILITY!**

**1-877-271-3236**

HughesNet AUTHORIZED RETAILER

HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.
1 The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.
2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

# DEALS ON WHEELS

## 0 DOWN DELIVERS!

## ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

**2006 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 4 X 4**
Cash and carry special
**Only $3,900**

**2000 FORD RANGER STEPSIDE 4 X 4**
XLT, V-6, newer engine and transmission VERY RARE
**Only $5,900**

**2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM**
Just in!!
Every option, super low miles
**Only $9,900**

**TOYOTA SIENNA LE**
Leather, moonroof, looks, runs, and drives great
**Only $9,900**

**2016 NISSAN VERSA SV**
Just in!!
Only 67,000 miles and like new
**Only $11,900**

**PONTIAC SOLSTICE**
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
**Only $13,900**

**2014 HONDA ACCORD LXI**
Just in!!
Every option with super low miles
**Only $14,900**

**2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB**
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate
**Only $15,900**

**2020 CHEVY TRAX**
Lease unit with only 39,000 miles
**Only $15,900**

**2014 TOYOTA AVALON XLE**
Just in!! Full size luxury with only 90,000 miles
**Only $16,900**

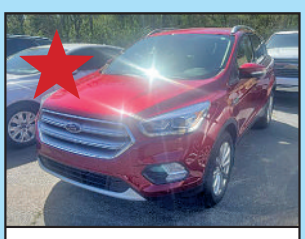
**2020 HYUNDAI IONIQ**
Gets 60 MPG!!
**Only $17,900**

**2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X4**
Just in!!
These sell fast…
**Only $19,900**

**2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4**
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
**Must See!!**

**2018 RAM PRO MASTER CITY**
Just in!! Save thousands on this 59,000 mile gas saver
**Only $19,900**

**2013 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED**
Just in!!
It's a cheap jeep
**Only $19,900**



**2018 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD**
Just in!! One owner, every option, low, low miles
**Only $21,900**

**2019 KIA STINGER**
OH BABY!!
**Only $23,900**

**2021 VOLKSWAGEN ID4 AWD**
GO ELECTRIC
**Only $25,900**

**2003 CHEVY SSR**
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
**Only $29,900**

**2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4**
Just in!!
Save thousands
**Only $29,900**

**2021 CHEVY COLORADO 4 X 4**
Just in!!
Off lease, one owner
**Only $29,900**

**2020 JEEP WRANGLER 4 X 4**
Just in!!
Off lease, only 33,000 miles
**Only $29,900**

**2024 GMC TERRAIN SLT AWD**
Just in!!
Loaded moonroof with teen miles..
MSRP over $41,000
**Only $31,900**

**2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L LIMITED**
Just in!! Off lease, 1 owner, like new
EVERY OPTION!
**Only $33,900**

**2020 CHEVY EXPRESS EXTENDED CARGO**
Just in!!
Very rare. 6.0 litre V-8.
Only 47,000 miles
**Only $34,900**

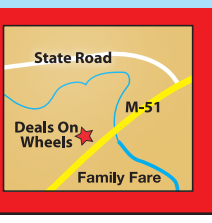
**2017 FORD F-150 CREW PLATINUM 4 X 4**
Just in!! Mint condition with every option & super low miles
**Only $34,900**

**2016 FORD F-250 CREW**
POWERSTROKE, long box
**Only $34,900**

**2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71**
Oh So Purdy!
**Only $41,900**

**2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4**
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
**Only $45,900**

**2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4**
Every option, super condition.
Get ready for winter now
**Only $49,900**

## SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

## 269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC